

As a winner of the LeGrand Smith Scholarship, Aaron is being honored for demonstrating that same generosity of spirit, intelligence, responsible citizenship, and capacity for human service that distinguished the late LeGrand Smith of Somerset, Michigan.

Aaron is an exceptional student at Hudson High School and possesses an impressive high school record.

Aaron has received numerous awards for his excellence in academics. Outside of school, he has received many awards for his involvement in the Jackson, Hillsdale, and Adrian Youth Symphony Orchestras.

Therefore, I am proud to join with his many admirers in extending my highest praise and congratulations to Aaron Baker for his selection as a winner of a LeGrand Smith Scholarship. This honor is also a testament to the parents, teachers, and others whose personal interest, strong support and active participation contributed to his success. To this remarkable young man, I extend my most heartfelt good wishes for all of his future endeavors.

HONORING GOVERNOR BENT ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

HON. HEATHER WILSON

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 14, 2000

Mrs. WILSON. Mr. Speaker, today I would like to bring to your attention the national recognition received by Governor Bent Elementary School in Albuquerque, New Mexico. The team at Governor Bent Elementary is highlighted in a report by the Fordham Foundation for their effective teaching techniques.

Governor Bent is known for expecting a lot from all their students. There are no excuses, all students can do quality work. Creativity is fostered for the success of the students, parents, teachers and all staff. The results are high student test scores and student enrollment from outside their attendance area.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in honoring the Principal Marilyn Davenport and the team at Governor Bent Elementary School for their contributions to students and to the future of our community.

CONSERVATION TRUST FUND OF PUERTO RICO

HON. PHILIP M. CRANE

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 14, 2000

Mr. CRANE. Mr. Speaker, I would like to address an issue that we have been working on for almost five years. I am speaking about the funding question for the Conservation Trust Fund of Puerto Rico. As my colleagues may recall, in last year's Ticket to Work and Work Improvement Act tax bill, we included language that increased the amount of excise tax on rum covered over to Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands from \$10.50 to \$13.25. We have written statutory language that mandated one-sixth of the increase would be directed toward the endowment fund of the Conservation Trust. During the negotiations on the bill it was decided that this language would not be in-

cluded when the government of Puerto Rico committed to transfer these funds to the Conservation Trust. I am pleased to say that the first payment has in fact been transferred to the Trust. This extension of the rum tax increase will last for thirty months. At that time we will have to revisit the question whether we have fulfilled our commitment to fully endow the Trust Fund.

Recently we passed the Africa-CBI Trade bill and inserted language that will accelerate the payments of the rum tax cover over to Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands. I want to make sure that everyone clearly understands that this new legislation does not in any way undermine the intent of Congress in the previous tax bill. We expect the Conservation Trust Fund of Puerto Rico to continue getting one-sixth of the increase at the same time the government of Puerto Rico receives its payments and that those funds be segregated by the Trust into an account that is solely for the purpose of building up the endowment fund. These amounts are not to be used for normal operational expenses or for expenditures for new projects or acquisitions.

I know that the Secretary of the Interior has prepared a Memorandum of Understanding to be signed by himself and the Governor of Puerto Rico memorializing the commitments made to Congress in this matter. To my knowledge this document has not been signed at this date, and I urge the governor and the Secretary of the Interior to do so at their earliest opportunity.

RECOGNIZING 225TH BIRTHDAY OF UNITED STATES ARMY

SPEECH OF

HON. SHEILA JACKSON-LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 13, 2000

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise to offer my best wishes, while conveying the warm regards of the residents of the 8th Congressional District for the men and women of the United States Army on the occasion of the 225th Anniversary of the United States Army's service to our nation.

From the battlefield of Breed's Hill, most commonly known as the Battle of Bunker Hill, to the war torn former provinces of Yugoslavia the army has repeatedly proven its ability to meet the challenges offered by this nation's leadership. Any time the nation called the men and women of the United States Army has answered in the affirmative and successfully met the challenges of their mission on the behalf of a free and independent United States of America. Therefore, it is proper that this historic milestone for the United States Army should occur on this our Nation's Flag Day.

I am happy to join millions of Americans in thanking the men and women of the United States Army for their vigilance in protecting this nation from its enemies both foreign and domestic for the last 225 years. Although most Americans cannot recount each individual act of bravery or heroism, which comprises the long history of this much-lauded branch of our nation's armed forces, they are told in the sustained unbroken history of this great nation.

The sacrifices of the men and women who are the United States Army have for over two

centuries put the country's best interest ahead of their own for the benefit of all of our freedom.

Today, we celebrate their sacrifice to this nation, because they have made the world a safer place for democracy and freedom. May they continue in the fine tradition established by the last two-and-a-quarter centuries of the existence of the United States Army well into this new millennium.

Mr. Speaker today is indeed a day for celebration. Therefore, I would like to ask my fellow members of the House to join me in applauding the United States Army.

RECOGNIZING 225TH BIRTHDAY OF UNITED STATES ARMY

SPEECH OF

HON. ROBERT B. ADERHOLT

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 13, 2000

Mr. ADERHOLT. Mr. Speaker, on June 14, 1775, the Continental Congress adopted a resolution which authorized the enlistment of ten companies of riflemen to serve the United Colonies for a period of one year. This marked the birth of the Army and was the prelude to the birth of our Nation the following year on July 4, 1776.

For the past 225 years, the Army's central mission has been to fight and win the Nation's wars. As General McArthur said, in a 1962 address at the United States Military Academy: "Yours is the profession of arms, the will to win, the sure knowledge that in war there is no substitute for victory—and that if we fail, the Nation will be destroyed." Whatever the mission, the Nation has turned to its Army for victory.

Throughout this Nation's history the soldiers of the Army have risked their lives to protect others. With patriotism, valor and sheer selflessness, from the Revolutionary War to the Gulf War, they have fought to protect our freedoms here and those abroad. In light of this, it is appropriate and fitting that the Army Recruiting Station, Jasper, Alabama, has organized a celebration of the Army's 225 years of dedicated service. I want to commend the soldiers of the Army Recruiting Station, Jasper, Alabama who are doing their part to ensure that this historic day is not forgotten.

I want to publicly say, not only to the soldiers currently serving in the Army, but to all soldiers who have served in wars to protect the interests and national security of the United States—thank you for protecting us. Thank you for your courage which has inspired generations on this shore and beyond. May God bless you, and may God bless America.

TRIBUTE TO NELSON DEOLIVEIRA

HON. EDWARD J. MARKEY

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 14, 2000

Mr. MARKEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Nelson DeOliveira. Nelson was a positive, outgoing young man who lost his life too soon to an epidemic sweeping our nation—the epidemic of gun violence.